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Brixworth Rural District Council



Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1945

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Brixworth Rural District Council

Report of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ending December 31st, 1945

Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. W. WOOD, *Chairman*.

HON. MRS. MACDONALD BUCHANAN	MR. C. H. GRAVELEY
MRS. V. G. BORWICK	MR. W. A. HOLLAND
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Public Health Officers.

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	DR. C. T. DARWENT, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H., F.R.SAN.I.
<i>Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor</i>	F. A. RUSSELL, F.F.S., M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.
<i>Assistant Sanitary Inspector</i>	R. S. LINLEY.
<i>Assistant Surveyor</i> ...	B. J. LITTLE.
<i>Water Inspector</i> ...	D. H. SEATON.

D. J. JONES, B.SC., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ending 31st December, 1945

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1945, having returned to duty as your Medical Officer of Health from service in H.M. Forces in February 1946. The past year has seen the end of the war in Europe and the Far East, but the return to normal conditions of peace time are of necessity slow, due to the world wide upheaval that the war has caused.

In the review of the health of the district in 1945, the vital statistics may be regarded as satisfactory. The birth rate of 17·9 per 1000 of the population contrasts with a rate of 20·23 for 1944, but is higher than the general rate for England and Wales of 16·1. The death rate of 12·04 per 1000 of the population is very satisfactory in comparison with a rate of 15·06 for 1944, but it is higher than the rate for England and Wales by 0·56. It will be noted from the table of registered causes of death that Cancer and Cardio-Vascular Diseases were responsible for more than half of all deaths.

At the time of writing this report, the Northampton Borough Council has informed the authorities in the County that the attempt to form a Joint Water Board for the supply of water to the whole county had been unsuccessful. This decision is to be regretted. The Council have, however, obtained the Ravensthorpe—Harrington water main, and the Harrington Water Tower, and this, with the extension of the mains from Brixworth to Scaldwell, Old, Holcot, Hannington and Walgrave, will lift the burden of water supplies.

In addition, the Council's Consulting Engineers are conducting a survey of the whole district with a view to the re-sewering and construction of modern sewage disposal works throughout the district. The Council is to be commended on this decision, as the majority of the sewage works in the district can never produce a satisfactory effluent. The installation of the essential services of water supply and sewage disposal come at the opportune moment—when housing construction which has commenced, will increase rapidly in the course of the next few years.

The Medical Officer of Health holds a full time public Health appointment, combining with his duties to this Council, those of Medical Officer of Health to the Councils of Brackley Borough and Brackley Rural District, Daventry Borough and Daventry Rural District, and Assistant Medical Officer and Assistant School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council. This combined appointment allows the Medical Officer to be concerned with that part of the public health administration of the District for which the County Council is responsible, and includes :—

Examination of infants and toddlers at three Infant Welfare Centres : Brixworth, Moulton and Welford.

Medical inspection of children attending the public elementary schools.

Supervision of dairies and cowsheds concerned in the production and distribution of "accredited" and Tuper-culin tested milk.

Supervision of rivers and streams, under the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor to the Council. He and his assistants prepare plans and estimates and also supervise the carrying out of all works on behalf of the local authority, and supervise all building in the District.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area	...	...	...	...	82,944 acres
Rateable Value 31/12/45	...	...	...	...	£98,642
Sum represented by Id. rate	...	...	...	...	£390 15s. 8d.
Resident population	...	...	...	...	15,530
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	4,958

The District is almost entirely rural in character, except in proximity to the County Borough of Northampton. Agriculture and dairy farming are the main industries, though ironstone quarrying gives employment to a number of men.

Vital Statistics.

	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	
				Brixworth R.D.	England and Wales
Deaths	187	87	100	12·04	11·4
Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Live Births	279	146	133	17·9	16·1
Legitimate	253	133	120		
Illegitimate	26	13	13		
Stillbirths	6	2	4	21·05	[Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births]
Legitimate	6	2	4		
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil		
				0·38	0·46
				(Rate per 1,000 of Civilian population)	

Death rate of Infants (under one years of age) :—

				Brixworth R.D.	England and Wales	
All infants per 1,000 live births				.... 53	46	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				.... 51		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				.... 76		
				Total	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				.... 26	13	13
Deaths from measles (all ages)				.... NIL	—	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)				.... NIL	—	—
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)				.... NIL	—	—

Adjusted Death Rate.

The “Adjusted Death Rate” cannot be calculated for the current year as the “Area Comparability Factor” is not available. The above death rate therefore is the nett figure for the district.

The registered cause of death were as follows :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Influenza	0	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	3	1	4
Tuberculosis—other forms	1	1	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Diarrhœa	0	0	0
Puerperal Causes	0	0	0
Cancer	13	13	26
Diabetes	0	2	2
Appendicitis	0	0	0
Suicide	2	0	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	0	1
Other Violent Causes	5	2	7
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Other Digestive disorders	1	3	4
Cerebral hæmorrhage	5	13	18
Heart disease	21	45	66
Other circulatory diseases	3	1	4
Bronchitis	6	5	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	4	10
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	3
Ac. and chronic nephritis	5	0	5
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	7	2	9
All other causes	5	5	10

Heart disease and cancer were the commonest causes of death.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Swabs from suspected cases of diphtheria, water for bacteriological examination and any other pathological or bacteriological investigations are carried out in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, at Northampton General Hospital.

(b) **Diphtheria Antitoxin.** A supply of Antitoxin is maintained at the Council Offices in accordance with the provisions of the "Diphtheria Antitoxin (outside London) Order, 1910," and is available free of charge to all Medical Practitioners in the District.

(c) **Ambulance Facilities..**

(1) Ordinary cases by St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(2) Infectious cases by Kettering Joint Hospital Board.

(d) **Nursing in the home.**

(e) **Treatment centres and clinics.**

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

(i) Water Supplies.

The only change in water supplies during the year has been an extension of the Council's mains in the village of Pitsford—approximately 1150 yards in all. This village is now almost entirely covered with a mains system.

There was no general shortage of water in any part of the Council's district throughout the year.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

No major schemes and/or improvements were carried out during the year; the arrangements of drainage and sewerage therefore remain substantially the same.

The total length of sewers in the district is about $39\frac{1}{4}$ miles, the regular flushing of which has been much interfered with owing to the shortage of labour.

(iii) Public Cleansing.

Scavenging of household refuse is carried out by direct labour throughout the whole district. Collections are made monthly with the exception of part of the parish of Boughton, adjacent to the Borough of Northampton, where fortnightly collections are in operation.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Housing.

(a) A start was made during the year on a preliminary survey of all working class houses in the district under the terms of the "Hobhouse" Report. At the end of the year 1931 houses had been inspected. These were provisionally classified by the Council's officials as follows :—

(1) Satisfactory in all respects	....	....	....	Nil
(2) Minor defects	....	....	....	1163
(3) Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement—not eligible for assistance under the former Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	....			344
(4) Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement—eligible for assistance under the former Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	....			61
(5) Unfit for human habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense	....	....	....	363

(b) In addition to the above the following housing inspections were also made :—

Inspections for individual unfit houses	NIL
Visits to Clearance Areas	NIL
Visits for repairs	1227
Building Inspections by Private Enterprise	596
Visits to Council Houses in course of erection	NIL

BUILDING AND PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES.

One hundred and fourteen plans were submitted and reported upon during the year as follows :—

70 New Houses.

6 Additions to Domestic Premises.

9 Alterations to Domestic Premises.

4 Private Garages.

11 New Farm Buildings.

3 Alterations to Farm Buildings.

2 Additions to Schools.

1 Conversion of Country House to Private School.

1 Hospital Addition.

1 Hostel for Agricultural Workers.

6 Other Buildings.

STATISTICS FOR 1945.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts) 419
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 1227
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 NIL
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... NIL
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation NIL
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and capable of repair NIL

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers	NIL
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which noticees were served requiring repairs	NIL
---	-----

2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :—	
---	--

(a) By Owners	NIL
---------------	------	------	------	------	-----

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	NIL
---	------	------	------	------	-----

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	419
---	------	------	------	-----

2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
---	--

(a) By Owners	2
---------------	------	------	------	------	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	NIL
---	------	------	------	------	-----

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	NIL
--	------	-----

2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	NIL
---	------	------	-----

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936 :—

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	NIL
---	------	------	------	-----

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	NIL
--	------	------	-----

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwelling houses overerowded at the end of the year	} Information not available	
(ii) Number of families therein		
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein		
(b) Number of new cases of overerowding reported during the year		2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overerowding relieved during the year		NIL
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases		NIL

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**MILK AND DAIRIES.**

Periodic inspections have been made for cleanliness and alterations to existing Cowsheds.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

All slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption in this district, is now carried out in the Central Abattoirs at Northampton and Market Harborough.

BAKEHOUSES.

During the year no adverse reports have been received.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken and no complaints have been received.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no recognised camping sites in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are four private swimming pools in the District and no reports have been received as to the condition of the water.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

Sanitary Inspection of houses has revealed nine cases of infestation and appropriate action was taken.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scabies.

Notifications of cases are received by the Medical Officer of Health and where facilities for treatment are available at home this is usually instituted by the general medical practitioner and/or with the guidance and supervision of the health visitors.

Where such facilities do not exist, treatment is carried out in the case of local residents in the County Borough of Northampton at their cleansing station by arrangements with the Public Health Department of the Borough. All evacuees are treated by arrangement with the County Council at Daventry Public Assistance Institution. Four notifications have been received during the year.

Infected bedding and clothing is removed and disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation up to 31st December, 1945.

Age at 31-12-45. Year Born	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5 to 9 1936-40	10 to 14 1931-35	Total under 15
Number immunised	1	158	166	176	162	995	931	2589
Estimated mid-year population 1945	1390					2270		
Percentage	50					85		

As seen from the figures above, still more remains to be done in this very important branch of preventive medicine. In the year 1945, a total of 158 children born in 1944 were immunised—but the number of births in 1944 was 279. Even allowing for numbers of children who may leave the district before attaining the age of one year, and a number inoculated by private practitioners under the Scheme formulated by the County Council, it would appear that many parents are not availing themselves of the service.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATION IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65— and over	Total	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
		1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65— and over			
Scarlet Fever	—	1	6	7	17	3	1	2	2	—	—	39	33	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	3	—
Measles	5	15	20	18	22	49	30	4	—	1	—	301	5	—
Whooping Cough	—	2	1	1	1	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	7	2	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	3	—	—	—	14	1	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
Acute Polionmyelitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths.

		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Other		Pulmonary		Other	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—	....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—	....	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—	....	4	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
25—	....	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—	....	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
45—	....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over		1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age Unknown		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL		13	10	4	1	2	1	1	—

DAVID J. JONES,

M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1946.

